

increasing that fee. My feeling is since we don't want to, from the state level, support drivers education, then our people who are paying for it should not have to pay that fee. So I am requesting that this amendment be adopted to lower the fee. Personally, I would rather leave it in and support the drivers education because I think many of you realize that that is going to continue on. The property taxpayers of our state are going to pay that bill. The ESUs, across the State of Nebraska, have simulators, in other words there are buses which help learn and teach people how to drive. These won't be discarded, but it does take staff, takes personnel to operate those. So it is going to take dollars. We are not going to lose that program, it is just shifting the cost. We at least can get some of that cost back with the \$3 elimination of this fee. That amounts to about \$40 per student in payback to the schools. As I think all of you are aware, it was \$80. But the \$40 was before this time, and I'm not talking about that because I don't realize, I don't know where that came from. But I do know that this came from the license fee. I just feel very strong that we're asking some of our people to support it. I took a lot of flack at the time. People said, well, here you are increasing the drivers license fee. But when I told them it was for the purpose of educating our children to be better drivers they accepted that. Another problem I have with this, we are saying that it isn't doing any good at the state level, we don't need it. It has helped. We passed the seat belt, for instance, for safety reasons, yet we are not willing to fund drivers education to cut down accidents. I'm sure that it has cut down several. If you talk to any highway patrolmen you will find that that is the case. I feel that we really do need the law. But if you don't want it then I think we should take this \$3 off. So I ask you to support this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hefner, please.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support Senator Sieck. I see no reason for charging this much if we are not going to use it for what it was intended. I don't know how many years ago it was that we passed this. But this was designed so that we could pay for drivers education. Therefore I just think it is wrong to take this money and put it in the General Fund instead of using it for what it was intended when it was passed years ago. So, therefore, I would support Senator Sieck's